

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 OMB-01 /159 W
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R 251120 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2951

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS FR LB

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. APRIL 25 CAIRO PRESS MAINTAINS SILENCE ON MIRAGE ISSUE.
2. APRIL 24 CAIRO PRESS REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN CABINET MET APRIL 23 UNDER HATEM IN ONE OF GOE' S " OPERATIONS ROOMS," DISCUSSED MEASURES TO PLACE ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES AT SERVICE OF ARMED FORCES. ACCORDING TO STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING MEETING, CABINET WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD MEETINGS IN " OPERATIONS ROOM," SADAT WILL MEET WITH MINISTERS ON PLANS " TO MEET ALL EVENTUALITIES RESULTING FROM MILITARY OPERATIONS," EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM DESIGNED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED,
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AND GOVERNORATE WAR COMMITTEES WILL " BE IN STATE OF PERMANENT SESSION." MININT SALEM DELIVERED REPORT AT MEETING ON NEED OF MINISTRIES TO PROTECT THEIR WORKERS; HE ALSO REPORTEDLY DEALT WITH CONSOLIDATING WAR COMMITTEES, AND ENSURING SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES TO COPE WITH EVENTS DURING TIME OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. APRIL 24 PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCES THAT EACH MINISTRY WILL HAVE ONE OF ITS UNDERSECRETARIES CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENTS, WARMIN ISMAIL DELIVERED SPEECH TO NEW GRADUATES OF TECHNICAL MILITARY ACADEMY APRIL 23, STRESSING PREPARATIONS OF ARMY FOR INEVITABLE BATTLE; AND AKHBAR NOTES THAT MOCK AIR RAIDS ARE TAKING PLACE IN GOVERNORATES OF UPPER EGYPT.

3. APRIL 25 PRESS REPEATS THAT FUTURE CABINET MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN " OPERATIONS ROOM," AND ADDS THAT SPECIAL OFFICES NEXT TO OPERATIONS ROOM WILL BE PREPARED FOR SADAT, HATEM AND MININT SALEM. ALTERNATE OPS ROOMS ARE ALSO BEING SET UP. ACCORDING TO AHAM, THIS IS ONE OF SPECIAL MEASURES BEING ADOPTED FOR STATE OF TOTAL CONFRONTATION.

4. APRIL 25 PRESS CONTAINS SEVERAL ARTICLES TENDING TO FOCUS HOSTILE ATTENTION ON US AND US ME POLICY. AKHBAR CARRIES ARTICLE ON TEHRAN COM CONFERENCE, STATING THAT AMONG " SECRET DECISIONS" TAKEN BY GROUP WERE THOSE INVOLVING A " NEW AMERICAN STRATEGY IN CASE OF RENEWAL OF WARFARE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL;" AN OIL BOYCOTT BY ARAB COUNTRIES; AND EXPANSION OF FEDAYEEN ATTACKS IN AREA. AKHBAR HAS SEPARATE ARTICLE STATING THAT ARAB PROFESSIONAL UNIONS WILL MEET IN CAIRO ON MAY 2 TO DISCUSS WAYS OF STRIKING AT AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND A THIRD PIECE ANALYZING EFFECT OF US/ ISRAELI MANEUVERING ON RECENT UNSC RESOLUTION. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, ALL PAPERS NOTE APRIL 24 STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ROGERS THAT US AIM IS TO MAINTAIN CEASEFIRE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WHILE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO HOLD TALKS BETWEEN BOTH SIDES. BOTH AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA CONTAIN CRITICAL COMMENTARIES, NOTING US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL; AKHBAR STATES FLATLY THAT " EGYPT REJECTED AND WILL REJECT" NEGOTIATIONS.

5. APRIL 25 PRESS STATES THAT HATEM MET WITH ASU SECRETARIAT APRIL 24, LATER ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN ASU AND GOE OFFICIALS. CABINET MINISTERS WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTEDLY BE INVITED TO ASU SECRETARIAT MEETINGS WHEN ISSUES RELATED TO THEIR MINISTRIES ARE TO BE DISCUSSED, GOE MINISTRIES WILL SUPPLY SECRETARIAT WITH THEIR PLANS AND PROGRAMS, AND ASU WILL CONDUCT A DIALOGUE ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST, IN WHICH GOE OFFICIALS WILL PARTICIPATE. HATEM ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SPECIAL TV PROGRAMS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ASU ACTIVITIES.

6. APRIL 25 PRESS REPORTS THAT CAMPS FOR POPULAR RESISTANCE TRAINING WILL BE OPENED IN ALL GOVERNORATES, THAT APPLICATIONS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ATTENDANCE AT POPULAR RESISTANCE TRAINING COURSES WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING APRIL 28, AND THAT SUCH TRAINING WILL LAST AT LEAST THREE WEEKS. TRAINING WILL REPORTEDLY BE GIVEN IN WEAPONS, COMBAT TECHNIQUES, INDIVIDUAL SELF- DEFENSE, SETTING OF AMBUSHES AND STREET FIGHTING. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY.

7. EGYPT/ LIBYA: ASHRAF MARWAN REPORTEDLY RETURNED FROM LIBYA APRIL 23. TAWFIQ OWADA, SEC OF HIGHER ISLAMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL, REPORTEDLY DEPARTED CAIRO APRIL 24 FOR TRIPOLI FOR TWO- DAY VISIT. ADDITIONALLY, CHAIRMAN OF EGYPTIAN CIVAIR AUTHORITY SHENNAWI LEFT FOR TRIPOLI APRIL 24 TO DISCUSS PROGRAM OF EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS AND EGYPTIAN/ LIBYAN CIVAIR COORDINATION.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO01230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730453/aaaaiydu.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980203
Subject: CAIRO PRESS NOTES
TAGS: PFOR, EG, FR, IS, LB, US, n/a
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
JIDDA
KHARTOUM
LONDON
MOSCOW
NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

TEL AVIV

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005